

CLASSROOM

notebook

Tyler students help animals in need

During the month of December, Jill Johnson's first graders decided to help the animals in a local shelter when they learned about the Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue located in Belleville. "We found out that the animals needed food and toys and stuff and we just wanted to help," explained one dedicated student, "We wanted to get a lot of stuff, so we asked the whole school to join us." Join them they did, as the students brought in food, toys, and more pet supplies that were soon piled high outside of Johnson's room. Pat Clemens, the Events Support Coordinator for the shelter, came to pick up the donations and was amazed by the students' generosity. He brought two of the dogs from the rescue and gave the students some first-hand experience with the animals that they helped. "We are very grateful to these kids," said Clemens, "They gave from the heart so our animals can have better lives. It is wonderful to see such a proactive group." The Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue is always looking for volunteer dog walkers, anyone interested should visit www.fmar1.org.



Tyler teacher Jill Johnson and students are joined by a friend in front of some of the donations they collected for the shelter.



Rawsonville Science Students of the Month

(Back row, left to right) - Gage Conway, Zaezion Walls, Seth Campbell, Javen Franklin, Kahlil Bertera, Savannah Brummette, Jayla Holmes, Michelle Lopez-Gomez, Kyle Cavanaugh; (Middle row, left to right) - Aaron Chavarria-Young, Anthony Anderson, Davon Turner, Kiera Roberts; (Front row, seated left to right) - Tommy Ford, Jayden Butler, LaRon Paris, Braylon Harris; Not pictured: Aubrey Garrett, Luke Bodenham, TezMonta Evans & Xavier Sheard (Photo provided by Rawsonville Tech Specs Mary Ellen Vago and Deb Mounsey.)



Tyler fourth graders research healthy living

When students in Laura Baker's 4th grade at Tyler Elementary wanted to know more about getting healthier in 2014, they went straight to the Internet for information. Using the school's set of 32 laptop computers, students visited www.myplate.gov and explored healthy living and nutrition choices. "I love the games because I'm learning new things while I play," exclaimed one excited young nutritionist. In addition to games, students read articles, watched informational videos, and completed quizzes to demonstrate their new knowledge. "The kids know about making better choices when it comes to food and activity," explained Baker, "but using technology enables them to interact with the content in an exciting and fresh way. The more excited they get about it, the more it will stay with them and the healthier they will be."

Tigers boys basketball split the week

By Dave Merchant

Maybe it was the fact it was 3 p.m. on a Saturday afternoon or maybe it was the fact that Howell had more seniors on its team, but whatever the reason, Belleville didn't come away with a win over the weekend at Howell.

The Tigers trailed 17-9 after the first quarter and couldn't quite catch up, losing the non-league contest 54-49.

"We were down eight at the end of the first quarter and extended so much energy to be down 27-26 at the half," Belleville coach Adam Trumpour said. "We didn't shoot as well as we normally do. We only had one player make a three (Andre Smith) and we usually have at least three guys scoring threes."

Trumpour praised Howell senior Tyler Johnson, calling him an "excellent player." Johnson had a big finish, dropping in 20 points on the Tigers.

Arlington Hambright led the Tigers in scoring with 13 points and George Spencer was next with 12 points.

The following game had the Tigers facing off against Ann

"It was a good game for us. We won by eight, but I thought we could have won by 20 points. We had some mental breakdowns, and we didn't finish as well as we should have."

—Adam Trumpour,
Belleville coach

Arbor Skyline. Last year the Tigers couldn't hang with Skyline and their size. This year the team not only hung with them, but came away with the all-important "W".

Belleville came out with the early 9-1 lead in the first quarter and led 21-16 at the half going on to a 54-46 win over the newest high school in the Ann Arbor Public School district.

"It was a good game for us," Trumpour said. "We won by

eight, but I thought we could have won by 20 points. We had some mental breakdowns, and we didn't finish as well as we should have."

Spencer had 16 points (all in the second half) and 16 rebounds (11 in the second half).

"He was getting frustrated because they were keying on him," he said. "He had to screen for people, and he did a great job getting rebounds in that first half."

Smith had 13 points (three threes) with 10 of those points in the first half. Alex Fowler and Hambright each had eight points.

Belleville slips to 5-3 overall and 1-1 in the Western Wayne Athletic Conference (WWAC). Today they host Ypsilanti Lincoln in a makeup game and tomorrow they are at Dearborn Heights Robichaud in a league game at 7 p.m. Earlier in the week they hosted the Dearborn Pioneers in their third league game of the season.

"It is a big week," he said. "We have two big league games and back to back rivalry games. Lincoln has become a rival in basketball much like it is in football."

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Friends of the Library
General Membership Meeting

New Year - New Library
January 25th, 2:00pm
Library Program Room

Architect Dan Whisler will be presenting the most recent plans for the new library. We will also elect new officers and revisiting the past year's activities.

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Spencer lets his basketball game speak for him on the court

By Dave Merchant

Some people lead vocally and some people let their actions do their talking. Senior guard George Spencer is one of those who let his play on the court do the talking for his ability.

He has been on varsity for the Belleville Tigers basketball team since he was a sophomore, and let's just say this athlete has some ability and talent for basketball. At six-foot, five-inches he makes a big guard for high school.

He can play the number two guard but would prefer the rock in his hand and being at the point. Spencer also plays AAU hoops for the Michigan Warriors out of Westland.

"I am being looked at by some JUCO schools for basketball as well as Wayne State, Grand Valley State University and Florida A&M," Spencer said modestly. "I haven't made any decisions yet." When it comes to school, his favorite subject is history. But he has not even considered what he wants to take in college and what career track to follow.

He said both the coach he had for the past two years (Tyrone Hicks) and the varsity coach he has this season (Adam Trumpour) have been tough coaches. They have different styles but the players have worked hard for both coaches.

Spencer, who has the most minutes on varsity of all the seniors, recalls one moment that especially stands out in his varsity career.

"Last year against Lincoln I scored 13 points in the first half and 20 points for the game," he said. "We beat them by eight. After Romulus they are our biggest rivals."

He says he likes the new gym but also liked the old one with the fans right on top of

the court. This year the district level playoff game will be hosted by Belleville and the Tigers drew Romulus on the first night at 7 p.m.

Tiger coach Adam Trumpour has nothing but good things to say about Spencer.

"George has been a great role model as a well-rounded student-athlete for our young team," Trumpour said. "He comes everyday ready to be coached, ready to work hard, and ready to lead his teammates in a positive manner."

Those skills could payoff for Spencer, according to Trumpour, who said that Spencer could have several ways to play basketball after high school.

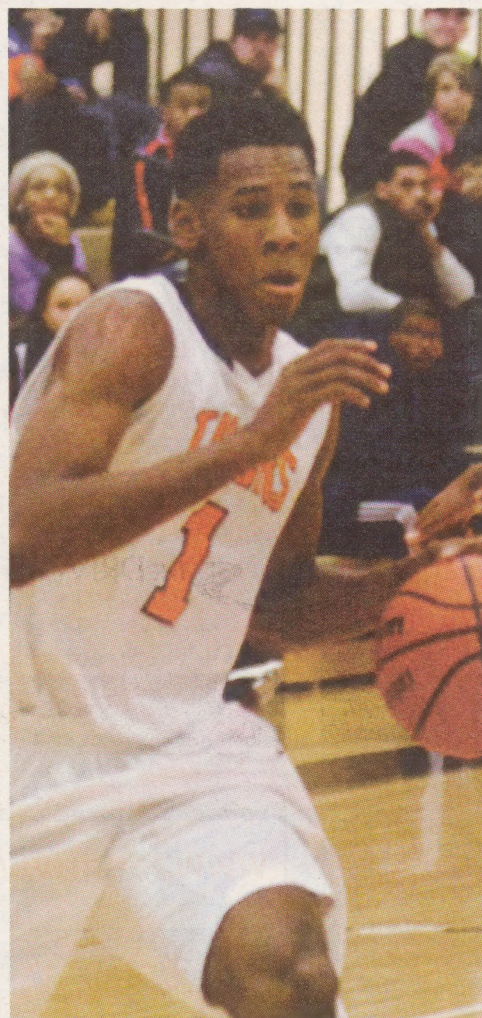
"George is currently being recruited by a variety of colleges at the D2, NAIA, and JUCO levels. As a young senior, the prep school route could be an option for him as well. I have no doubt that he has the ability to play basketball at the next level. As the team continues to have success, his options at the next level should expand."

Spencer is supported in athletics and school by his father Barry and mother Crystal. He has one older sister, Breanna, who attends Eastern Michigan University and one younger sister, Caelyn, who plays basketball and is in the sixth grade.

"My sisters come to the games and my parents also come," Spencer said. "It is nice to look up in the crowd and see them watching me. Basketball is a big part of my life. I have been playing since I was four or five."

He offers some simple advice that not everyone may put to heart to play at the varsity level.

"You have to put the time and the effort in and work hard," Spencer added. "It has to be your best effort, (all year round) you have to work on your game."



Belleville High School Senior George Spencer, one of the leaders of the school's Varsity basketball team, is praised by Tigers' coach Adam Trumpour for his hard work both on and off the court. (photo by Mark McMullen)

Upcoming Belleville High School Athletic Events

Boys Varsity Basketball

Jan. 24 @ Robichaud – 7 p.m.
Jan. 28 vs. Thurston – 7 p.m.

Boys JV Basketball

Jan. 24 @ Robichaud – 5:30 p.m.
Jan. 28 vs. Thurston – 5:30 p.m.

Boys Freshman Basketball

Jan. 24 @ Robichaud – 4 p.m.
Jan. 28 vs. Thurston – 5:30 p.m.

Boys and Girls Bowling

Jan. 27 vs. Wyandotte @ Romulus Lanes – 3:30 p.m.

Girls Varsity Basketball

Jan. 24 vs. Robichaud – 7 p.m.
Jan. 28 @ Thurston – 7 p.m.

Girls JV Basketball

Jan. 24 vs. Robichaud – 5:30 p.m.
Jan. 28 @ Thurston – 5:30 p.m.

Boys Varsity Swimming and Diving

Jan. 23 @ Fordson – 4 p.m.
Jan 25 Tiger Invitational – 11:30 a.m.

Boys JV and Varsity Wrestling

Jan. 25 Observerland V Invite @ Churchill

*Home games in bold

Lady Tigers take a bite out of Kennedy

By Dave Merchant

The Tigers only played one game last week but Coach Joe Brodie's squad made the game count against the Taylor Eagles of the Downriver League. The locals dropped Kennedy 39-33 and improved to 7-2 on the season.

"This was a nip and tuck game the entire way," Brodie said. "We held a 10-7 advantage in first. 19-17 at half. 26-25 going into fourth. Anytime we would look like we were going to pull away, Kennedy came down and would make a big shot."

Asia Page scored 17 points for Kennedy and 14 of those came in the second half.

Brodie said Paris Lawrence was a key factor in the fourth quarter scoring seven of her nine points to help the Tigers seal the game, and she did it playing with four fouls the whole quarter and part of the fourth.

"She was forced to sit the entire second quarter because of foul trouble," he added. "But freshmen Alexis Kilpatrick once again came in and did an excellent job for us defensively and on the glass. Our other impact freshman, Victoria Perez, also saw early foul trouble and had to sit out the second quarter."

Brianna Smiley came in and Brodie said she played well defensively and scored nine points of her own. He comment-

ed that she had some key steals and assists in the game as well. Daniela Perez also added nine points so the team got contributions from all over to get the win.

"We have emphasized free throw shooting everyday in practice because we have been terrible all season long from the line," he said. "It paid off at the end of the game as Kennedy put us on the line in a tight game, in an effort to get back into it, but by the girls, point guard Erin Burbank specifically knocked them down. Erin was 4-4 from the line at the end."

He said it was a good win. The Tigers play host to Ypsilanti Lincoln today and host to Dearborn Heights Robichaud tomorrow. Earlier in the week they were at Garden City.

Higher retirement plan limits can affect investment moves

We may be nearing the end of 2013, but we're just entering that time of year known as Tax Season. So, between now and April 15, 2014 (the deadline for filing your taxes), you'll want to take note of some higher limits affecting retirement plans and financial gifts — because these new limits can affect your investment strategies.

Here are a few such changes to consider:

- Higher IRA contribution limits — In 2013, IRA contribution limits were raised for the first time since 2008. You can now contribute up to \$5,500 to a traditional or Roth IRA, up from \$5,000 in 2012. And if you are 50 or older, you can contribute up to an additional \$1,000, for a maximum of \$6,500. You've got until April 15, 2014, to fully fund your IRA for the 2013 tax year.

- Higher retirement plan limits for self-employed business owners — If you're a small-business owner, the amount you can contribute to a retirement plan, and then deduct from your taxes, increased to \$51,000 in 2013, up from \$50,000. And if you are 50 or older, you can contribute an additional

\$5,500. You can make retirement plan contributions up until your tax-filing deadline, including extensions, but it may make sense to get your money working for you sooner rather than later.

- Higher income limits for traditional IRA deductions — In 2013, the tax deduction limits for traditional IRAs have changed. If you are covered by another retirement plan at work, and you are married and file taxes jointly, your new upper income limit is \$115,000, up from \$112,000 in 2012. In other words, your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) can now be as high as \$115,000 before you completely lose your IRA deduction. (If your MAGI is between \$95,000 and \$115,000, your traditional IRA contribution is partially deductible; if your MAGI is less than \$95,000, your IRA contributions are totally deductible, up to your contribution limit.) If you are single, your new upper income limit is \$69,000, up from \$68,000 in 2012.

- Higher income limits for Roth IRA contributions — Your Roth IRA contributions are never deductible, but your earnings can

potentially grow tax-free, provided you don't start taking withdrawals until you reach 59-1/2 and you've had your account at least five years. However, you can only contribute to a Roth IRA if you meet certain income limits. In 2013, if you are married and filing taxes jointly, you can contribute to a Roth IRA if your MAGI is up to \$188,000, at which point your Roth IRA eligibility is phased out. This eligibility limit is up from \$183,000 in 2012. (You can contribute the full \$5,500 — or \$6,500 if you are 50 or older — if your MAGI is less than \$178,000.) If you are single, the upper income limit is \$127,000, up from \$125,000 in 2012; you can contribute the maximum amount if your MAGI is less than \$112,000.

As you plan your investment moves for the rest of the year keep these changes in mind. They may make a difference in your decision-making.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.



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